

W. M. Complementary

• • THE • •
Hatfield Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR
1905.



THE
HATFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1905.

HATFIELD,

February 3rd, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my report for the year 1905.

The year has been remarkable for the small amount of sickness experienced and for the low rate of Births.

In my last Report I noted the presence of Epidemic Catarrh. It appears that other districts in the County have been similarly troubled, and in Hertford a careful investigation of the disease was undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health. Subsequently the County Medical Officer took the matter in hand and a conference was summoned by him at which the Medical Officers of Health in various Hertfordshire districts, the Medical Officers of Health attached to the London County Council, and to the Essex County Council attended. The opportunity in this way presented itself to me of hearing a variety of opinions on the subject. I was unable to agree with the bulk of those expressed, but I was interested to find that Dr. Hamer, of the London County Council holds opinions on the subject of such an epidemic occurrence as that under review, very similar to those which I have in various reports put forward to your Council.

In my report to you for the year 1891, I called your attention to certain relations subsisting between what I termed simple disease and defined specific disease. An attempt was made to demonstrate that the characteristics of the agents of zymotic

disease are not fixed and that they can be made to vary artificially; further, that the symptoms and course of the various zymotic diseases are equally unstable. In a circular letter dated October 30, the County Medical Officer gives an epitome of the symptoms noted in the Hertford epidemic.

The germ agent was constant throughout; the micrococens catarrhalis being found in all cases in which search was made for it. It would be interesting if a laboratory investigation were undertaken with a view of ascertaining whether this particular form had an affinity with any other, and what changes in its outward form and its functions can be produced by artificial means.

The symptoms associated with the presence of this micrococens in the body range from those connected with scarlet fever to those connected with enteric fever, including those associated with cerebro spinal meningitis and influenza. A very wide series of symptoms indeed to be connected within the meshes of one single classification, and much too wide in my humble judgment for such an attempt to be made.

However interesting from a scientific point of view as establishing connecting links between the simpler and more complex forms of disease, it would not appear that the subject comes very seriously into the practical work of a medical officer of health. Such cases must depend for success, not only so far as treatment is concerned, but so far as the stay of epidemic spread, upon the acumen brought to bear upon the subject by medical practitioners themselves. Beyond advising them so far as is possible when such advice is sought, I am not at present in sight of any steps which I can take in dealing with the matter.

During the year much attention has been paid to the question of the sewerage of Little Heath. A third Local Government Board Enquiry has been held, but no definite step has at present been taken in the matter. In the region of Frampton Road the subsoil has been drained and a great improvement thus made.

The subject of new Building Bye-laws has been under consideration.

The tables annexed give the usual information as to the mortality incidence ; there are no special observations to be made in connection with this.

Very few cases of notifiable zymotic disease were notified, but there was a very considerable outbreak of measles in Lemsford and Hatfield in the later months of the year, leading to school closure.

There have been no material changes either in the drainage or water supply of the district.

A fair number of houses for the working classes have been built, especially in parts of Hatfield and North Mimms.

The routine work of the district has been well attended to during the year, and the Inspector's report shows the amount of work actually performed.

The Factory Acts, Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) 1890, is not in force, but the standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation is that which is applicable to a district which is not a manufacturing one, nor one possessing urban characteristics.

Your Council has caused to be printed and circulated amongst those interested, a circular dealing with the requirements of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and as the schedule shows, your Officers have inspected from time to time and registered the various places to which the Act applies. Although no gross defects have been found, minor improvements have been effected.

I have inspected at various times during the past year all parts of your district, and am able to report favourably on its condition.

In conclusion I must thank you for the consideration which I have experienced at your hands.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LOVELL DRAGE.

THE HATFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	...	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	...	...	...
Workplaces	Various	6	...
Homeworkers' Premises ... ..	—	...	...
TOTAL ... ..	...	6	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	...	...
Want of Ventilation	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	1	1	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
{ unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...
{ not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	7	7	...	...

Table 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.

Name of District - - - HATFIELD RURAL.

YEAR	Popu- lation estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public In- stitutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public In- stitutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents regis- tered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					Num- ber.	Rate.*
				Num- ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births Regis- tered.	Num- ber.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	6963	220	31·4	28	127·2	117	15·7	8	...	...	117	15·7
1896	„	180	25·8	21	116·5	83	11·9	7	...	...	83	11·9
1897	„	209	30	18	85·7	89	12·7	10	...	...	89	12·7
1898	„	185	26·5	16	86·5	100	14·3	13	...	...	100	14·3
1899	„	206	29·5	15	72·7	90	12·9	13	...	...	90	12·9
1900	„	199	28·5	22	110·5	89	12·5	11	2	...	87	12·3
1901	7551	197	26	21	106·5	79	10·4	12	...	...	79	10·4
1902	„	188	24·8	20	106·3	100	13·2	12	...	1	101	13·2
1903	„	208	27·5	15	72·1	97	12·8	9	...	5	102	13·5
1904	„	193	25·5	25	129	101	13·6	13	1	4	104	13·3
Aver- ages for years 1895- 1904		198·5	27·5	20·1	101·3	94·5	13	10·8	...	...	95·2	13
1905	7551	182	24·1	8	43·9	86	11·3	11	1	4	89	11·9

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 23,386.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901, 7,551.

Number of inhabited houses at ditto, 1,582.

Average number of persons per house at ditto, 4·7.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Hertford and Ware Infectious Hospital, and Herts County Lunatic Asylum, Hill End.

The Union Workhouse is within the District.

Table II.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1905 and Previous Years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	1. HATFIELD.				2. NORTH MIMMS.				3. NORTHAW.				4. ESSENDON.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1895 ...	4330	a.	c.	d.	1511	a.	c.	d.	582	a.	c.	d.	540	a.	c.	d.
1896 ...	"	132	81	20	"	1511	20	4	"	16	10	3	"	540	6	1
1897 ...	"	123	63	15	"	"	11	2	"	5	5	2	"	"	4	2
1898 ...	"	125	60	14	"	"	15	2	"	7	6	2	"	"	8	2
1899 ...	"	128	72	11	"	"	16	4	"	7	7	1	"	"	5	2
1900 ...	"	129	57	9	"	"	22	4	"	5	5	1	"	"	6	2
1901 ...	4754	132	54	17	"	44	19	5	"	16	6	1	"	"	10	2
1902 ...	"	123	62	16	1568	44	7	2	664	12	5	1	565	10	5	1
1903 ...	"	125	63	12	"	42	21	4	"	14	9	3	"	18	5	1
1904 ...	"	128	67	11	"	56	22	3	"	8	6	1	"	7	7	1
1904 ...	"	129	68	15	"	45	21	8	"	5	3	...	"	16	7	...
Averages of 1895-1904.	...	...	64.7	14.1	...	...	17.4	3.8	...	...	6.2	1.2	...	...	6.7	1.1
1905 ...	4754	114	57	5	1568	43	19	2	664	12	5	...	565	13	5	1

Table III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Hatfield.	North Mims.	Northhav.	Essendon.	Hatfield.	North Mims.	Northhav.	Essendon.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.								
Diphtheria.....	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	...	...	3	1	...	1	3	...	...	...	2	...	...
Totals.....	7	...	...	4	2	...	1	6	...	...	...	2	...	...

Isolation Hospital - - HERTFORD AND WARE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

Table IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to Localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	Hatfield.	North Mimms.	Northaw.	Essendon.	
Measles	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	9	...	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other tubercular diseases ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ..	8	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	3
Bronchitis	3	1	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia	6	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	1	1	...	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	2
Heart Diseases	7	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	44	4	...	3	...	10	27	3	...	...	...	5
All causes	89	8	6	5	3	32	35	3	...	1	...	11

Table V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

Deaths from Stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.													
CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total under One Year.												
	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.
All causes { Certified Uncertified	3	1	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...

Diarrhoeal { Diseases { Diarrhoea, all forms..... Gastritis, Gastrointestinal Catarrh }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Wasting { Diseases { Congenital Defects Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	1	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	1	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Deaths under One Year.													
	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Rural Sanitary District of Hatfield during the year ending Dec. 31., 1905.

	Total number for Year.	Result of Inspection, &c.
1. Complaints received...	20	
2. Nuisances detected without complaint ...	162	
3. Nuisances abated ...	182	
4. Notices served ...	6	
5. Summonses taken out ...	...
6. Convictions ...	...
7. Cottages inspected ...	280	Hatfield, North Mimms, Northaw & Essendon.
8. Lodging Houses in- spected ...	2	Kept in good order.
9. Slaughter Houses in- spected ...	3	Kept in good order.
10. Bakehouses inspected	8	Several altered. All clean.
11. Dairies and Milk Shops inspected ...	16	Several altered. All clean.
12. Cowsheds inspected...	14	One new.
13. Workshops inspected	19	Several improved.
14. Filthy Houses cleansed (Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875.)	29	
15. Houses disinfected ...	10	Where infection had been.
16. Overcrowding abated	4	
17. Houses placed in habi- table repair ...	20	Many altered.
18. Houses closed ...	...
19. Houses erected or re- built for which certi- ficates were applied...	27	Hatfield, Roe Green, Newgate Street, and Welham Green.
20. Certificates granted...	27	
21. Certificates deferred...	...	
22. Wells sunk or im- proved supplies of water afforded ...	3	Got better supply.
23. Wells cleansd or re- paired ...	11	
24. Wells closed ...	1	New Town.
25. Houses connected with sewers ...	4	Hatfield.
26. Houses connected with water main ...	10	Hatfield and Roe Green.
27. Earth, pail, or im- proved privies con- structed or existing privies altered ...	40	
28. Privies and w.c.'s re- paired; w.c.'s supplied with water ...	16	Six notices served.
29. Cisterns cleansed, re- paired, or covered ...	2	One removed.
30. Animals improperly kept removed...	6	
31. Samples of water taken for analysis ...	4	
32. Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ...	£3 18 6.	Little Heath.
33. Seizure of unsound meat, &c. ...	...

H. T. SIDWELL, F.I.S.E., Mem. C.M.E.S., F.S.S.,

District Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

